

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

22. (New) A process for the manufacture of an enantiopure compound comprising at least one functional group capable of reacting with an activated carboxyl group, starting from a mixture of enantiomers of the said compound, in which process

- (a) a reaction medium comprising the mixture of enantiomers and a reagent based on an enantiopure amino acid, in which reagent at least one amino group of the amino acid is protected by a protective group and in which reagent at least one carboxyl group of the amino acid is activated, is subjected to conditions appropriate for bringing about the reaction of the functional group capable of reacting with the activated carboxyl group with the activated carboxyl group, so as to form a carbonyl bond;
- (b) the mixture of diastereomers obtained is subjected to a separation operation, so as to obtain at least one fraction composed essentially of a diastereomer;
- (c) at least a portion of the said fraction is subjected to a stage of cleavage of the carbonyl bond under conditions under which the protective group is essentially stable; and
- (d) the enantiopure compound and an enantiopure derivative of the amino acid in which at least one amino group is protected by the protective group are recovered.

23. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which the activated carboxyl group is an acid halide or an anhydride.

24. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which the carboxyl group is activated in situ.

25. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which the protective group is a sulphonyl group.

26. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which the reagent is based on an enantiopure amino acid selected from the group consisting of alanine, valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, serine, isoserine, homoserine, threonine, allothreonine, methionine, ethionine, glutamic acid, pyroglutamic acid, aspartic acid, asparagine, cysteine, cystine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, ornithine, glutamine, citrulline, (1-naphthyl)alanine, (2-naphthyl)alanine, homophenylalanine, (4-chlorophenyl)alanine, (4-fluorophenyl)alanine, (3-pyridyl)alanine, phenylglycine, diaminopimelic acid (2,6-diaminoheptane-1,7-dioic acid), 2-aminobutyric acid, 2-aminotetralin-2-carboxylic acid, erythro- β -methylphenylalanine, threo- β -methylphenylalanine, (2-methoxyphenyl)alanine, 1-amino-5-hydroxyindane-2-carboxylic acid, 2-aminoheptane-1,7-dioic acid, (2,6-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)alanine, erythro- β -methyltyrosine and threo- β -methyltyrosine.

27. (New) The process according to Claim 26, in which the reagent is based on (2S)-pyroglutamic acid.

28. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which stage (a) is carried out in the presence of a base and at a temperature of -30 to +50°C.

29. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which stage (b) is a crystallization operation or a chromatography operation.

30. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which the functional group capable of reacting with the activated carboxyl group is chosen from an amino group, which is optionally monoalkylated, a hydroxyl group or a thiol group.

31. (New) The process according to Claim 30, in which the carbonyl bond is an amide bond and the cleavage reaction is carried out in an acidic medium.

32. (New) The process according to Claim 31, in which use is made of an aqueous solution of an inorganic acid exhibiting a normality of 1 to 8N.

33. (New) The process according to Claim 31, in which the cleavage reaction is carried out at a temperature of 60 to 150°C.

34. (New) The process according to Claim 30, in which the compound comprising the functional group capable of reacting with the activated carboxyl group is an amino acid.
35. (New) The process according to Claim 34, in which the amino acid is a β -amino acid.
36. (New) The process according to Claim 30, in which the carbonyl bond is an ester or thioester bond and the cleavage reaction is carried out in an alkaline medium.
37. (New) The process according to Claim 36, in which the cleavage reaction is carried out at a pH of 8 to 12.
38. (New) The process according to Claim 36, in which the cleavage reaction is carried out at a temperature of 60 to 120°C.
39. (New) The process according to Claim 36, in which the compound comprising the functional group capable of reacting with the activated carboxyl group is an alcohol.
40. (New) The process according to Claim 22, in which, on conclusion of stage (b), at least one second fraction comprising at least one other diastereomer is additionally recovered, which fraction is subjected to a cleavage operation in accordance with stage (c), and an additional amount of enantiopure derivative of the amino acid and optionally a fraction enriched in the other enantiomer of the compound comprising a functional group capable of reacting with the activated carboxyl group are furthermore recovered.
41. (New) The process according to Claim 27, wherein the protective group is an arylsulphonyl group.
42. (New) The process according to Claims 22, in which reagent is regenerated starting from the enantiopure derivative of the amino acid recovered.
43. (New) The process as claimed in claim 22 wherein said activated carboxyl group is an acid chloride and protective group is an alkylsulphonyl or an arylsulphonyl group.